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J. GATES, Gen'l Agt., LOUISVILLE, KY.

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The Burlington Route will renew the cheap one-way settlers' rates every day of September and October, 1902, to Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon and California, such as \$30.00 from St. Louis, \$35.00 from Chicago, and \$45.00 from Missouri River points, to California, Portland and Puget Sound territory; with correspondingly low rates to Spokane District and the Butte-Helena District.

## CHEAP ROUND TRIP TOURIST RATES TO COLORADO-UTAH.

During certain periods of August and September the Burlington will make such remarkably low first-class round trip rates to Denver, Colorado Springs and Pueblo as \$21.00 from St. Louis, \$25.00 from Chicago, good all summer; at other periods only one fare plus \$2.00. Ask nearest ticket agent for details.

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Very low tourist rates to Minnesota points daily, until September 15th.

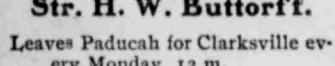
## HOMESEEKERS' EXCURSION.

First and third Tuesdays of August, September and October to many sections of the West and Northwest. Round trip tickets with 21 days' limit. Consult your nearest ticket agent or write us of your proposed trip and let us advise you the least cost, send you our publications and otherwise assist you.

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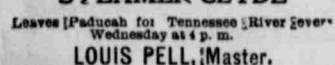
Leaves Clarksville every Tuesday noon for Paducah.

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For freight or passage apply on board or to Given Fowler, Agt. J. S. Tyner, W. A. Bishop, Master, Clerk.

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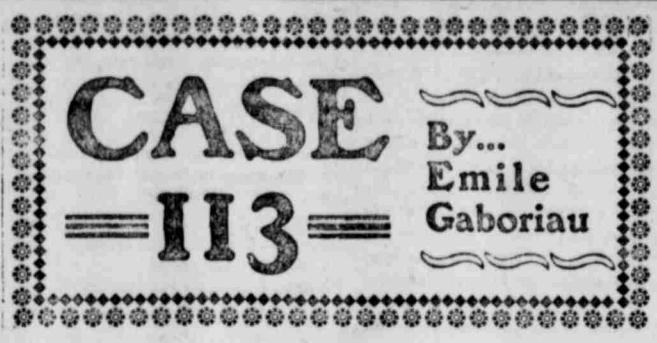
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With wonderful promptness and vigor M. Verduret laid the ladder on the ground and ran toward Prosper, fearing he was dead or dangerously injured.

"What did you see? Are you hurt?" he whispered.

But Prosper had already risen. Although he had had a violent fall, he was unharmed.

"I saw," he answered in a hoarse voice—"I saw Madeleine—do you understand, Madeleine?—in that room alone with Raoul."

M. Verduret was confounded. Was it possible that he, the infallible expert, had been mistaken in his deductions?

He well knew that M. de Lagors' visitor was a woman, but his own conjectures and the note which Mme. Gipsy had sent to him at the tavern had fully assured him that this woman was Mme. Fauvel.

"You must be mistaken," he said to Prosper.

"No, monsieur; no. Never could I mistake another for Madeleine. Ah, you who heard what she said to me yesterday, answer me. Was I to expect this infamous treachery? You said to me then, 'She loves you, she loves you!'"

M. Verduret did not answer. He had first been stupefied by his mistake and was now racking his brain to discover the cause of it, which was soon discerned by his penetrating mind.

"This is the secret discovered by Nina," continued Prosper. "Madeleine, this pure and noble Madeleine, whom I believed to be as immaculate as an angel, is alone with this thief who has even stolen the name he bears, and I, trusting fool that I was, made him my best friend. I confided to him all my hopes and fears, and he was her lover! Of course they ridiculed my absurd devotion and stupid confidence!"

"How do you know?" said M. Verduret, "that Mlle. Madeleine is here on her own account? Did we not come to the conclusion that she was sacrificing herself for the benefit of some one? That superior will which compelled her to your dismissal may have brought about this step tonight."

That which coincided with our secret wishes is always eagerly welcomed. This supposition, apparently improbable, appealed to Prosper.

"That might be the case," he said. "Who knows?"

"I would soon know," said M. Verduret, "if I could see them together in that room."

Prosper thought a moment.

"Will you promise me, monsieur, to tell me the exact truth—all that you see and hear, no matter how painful it may be for me?"

"I swear it, upon my word of honor."

Then, with a strength of which a few minutes before he would not have believed himself possessed, Prosper raised the ladder and placed the last round on his shoulder.

"Mount," he said.

M. Verduret rapidly ascended the ladder without even shaking it till his head was on a level with the window. Prosper had seen but too well. There was Madeleine at this hour of the night alone with Raoul de Lagors. She still wore her wraps. She was standing in the middle of the room, talking with great animation. Her attitude, her look, her gestures, betrayed indignant scorn. Raoul was seated on a chair by the fire, stirring up the coals with a pair of tongs. Every now and then he would shrug his shoulders, like a man resigned to everything he heard and had no answer except, "I cannot help it."

M. Verduret would willingly have given the diamond ring he wore on his finger to be able to hear ten words of what was said, but the roaring wind completely drowned their voices, and he dared not place his ear too close, for fear of being seen.

"They are evidently quarrelling," he thought, "but it is not a lover's quarrel."

Madeleine continued talking, and it was by closely watching the face of Lagors, clearly revealed by the lamp on the mantel, that M. Verduret hoped to discover the meaning of the scene. At times Lagors would start and tremble in spite of his apparent indifference; then he would strike at the fire with the tongs, doubtless giving vent to his rage at some reproach uttered by Madeleine. Finally Madeleine, clasping her hands, knelt before him. He turned away his head and refused to answer save in monosyllables. Several times she turned to leave, but each time returned, as if asking a favor and unable to go till she had obtained it. At last she seemed to have uttered something decisive, for Raoul suddenly rose and opened a desk near the fireplace, from which he took a bundle of papers and handed them to her.

"H'm!" thought M. Verduret. "What does it mean? Is it a compromising correspondence which she wants to reclaim?"

Madeleine took the papers, but did not appear satisfied. She again entreated him to give her something else. Raoul refused, and then she threw the papers on the table. The papers seemed to be pawnbrokers' tickets."

Madeleine turned them over, as if looking for some particular ones. She took three, which she put in her pocket, pushing the others aside. She was evidently preparing to take her departure, for she said a few words to Raoul, who took up the lamp as if to light the way. There was nothing more for M. Verduret to see. He carefully descended the ladder, muttering to himself: "Pawnbrokers' tickets! What infamous mystery lies at the bottom of all this?" The first thing he did was to remove the ladder. Raoul, escorting Madeleine, might take it into his head to look around the garden, and if he did so the ladder might attract his attention. M. Verduret and Prosper hastily laid it on the ground, then concealed themselves among the trees, whence they could watch at once the front door and the outer gate.

At the same time Madeleine and Raoul appeared in the doorway. Raoul set the lamp on the bottom step and offered his hand to the girl, but she refused it with haughty contempt. This did not seem to move or surprise Raoul. He simply answered by an ironical gesture which implied, "As you please." He followed her to the gate, which he opened and closed after her; then he hurried back to the house, while Madeleine's carriage drove rapidly away.

"Now, monsieur," said Prosper, "you must tell me what you saw. Remember, you promised me the truth no matter what it might be. Speak; I can bear it."

"You will only have joy to bear, my friend. Within a month you will bitterly regret your suspicions of tonight. You will blush to think that you ever imagined Mlle. Madeleine to be intimate with a man like Lagors."

The drive back was silent and seemed interminably long. Prosper tried to draw his strange companion into conversation, but as he received nothing but monosyllables in reply he held his peace for the rest of the journey. He was again beginning to feel irritated at the absolute empire exercised over him by this man.

On their arrival at the city M. Verduret said: "You will see me at your room about this time tomorrow night. Perhaps I shall discover what I am seeking at the Jandillers' ball."

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